

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SSM-03 MCT-01
DHA-02 EB-08 ACDA-07 /111 W
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P R 310801Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7176
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T NAIROBI 4063

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, GR, KE
SUBJECT: KENYAN CONCERN RE ISRAELI ACTION ON PLFP

REF: TEL AVIV 2222

1. KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER DR. WAIYAKI HAS EXPRESSED TO ME HIS DEEP CONCERN REGARDING THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY ISRAELIS THAT THEY INTEND TO EXECUTE TWO GERMANS AND THREE MEMBERS PLFP WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY HANDED OVER TO ISRAELIS BY KENYAN POLICE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO WHEN ATTEMPTING TO BLOW UP WITH ROCKET EL AL PLANE IN NAIROBI. KENYA HAS STOUTLY DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH INCIDENT OR ACTION, AND PLAN TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION. GERMANS HAVE EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE TO GOK ON LEARNING THAT TWO OF THEIR CITIZENS WERE INVOLVED, CITING VIENNA CONVENTION. WAIYAKI STATED HE HAS AT LEAST THREE CONCERNS RE IMPLICATIONS OF ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT AND ACTION:

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(1) GOK IS PRESENTLY WORKING QUIETLY BUT CLOSELY WITH ISRAELIS; THIS RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE DAMAGED AND GOK MIGHT WELL HAVE TO BACK AWAY FROM ISRAELIS IF THEY CONTINUE TO PUBLICIZE ABOVE ISSUE; (1) PLO/PLFP CRITICISM DIRECTLY AND THROUGH/BY LIFE-PRESIDENT AMIN WOULD BE REGENERATED, GIVING AMIN OPPORTUNITY FOR CRITICISM AND PERHAPS ACTION AGAINST KENYA AT A TIME

WHEN SITUATION HAS BEEN AT LEAST QUIESCENT. (3)
BELIEF THAT KENYA HAS WORKED IN ASSOCIATION WITH
ISRAELIS DURING ENTEBBE RAID WOULD, IN SOME PEOPLE'S
MINDS, BE CONFIRMED. THIS, IN TURN, MIGHT WELL RESULT
IN RETALIATORY ACTION BY PLFP SUCH AS HIJACKING OR
BLOWING UP KENYA AIRWAYS AIRCRAFT IN EUROPE, WAIYAKI
BELIEVES.

2. COMMENT: KENYAN POLICE DID, IN FACT, APPREHEND
AND DETAIN TWO GERMANS AND THREE PLFP, AND DID HAND
THEM OVER TO ISRAELIS. WHILE THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED
TO HAVE FED THEM TO THE HYENAS THEY COULD NOT BRING
THEMSELVES TO THIS ACTION; THEY DID NOT WISH TO DETAIN
THEM IN PRISON WHICH WOULD ONLY HAVE MADE THEM PROBABLE
TARGET FOR PLFP ACTION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DR. WAIYAKI ASKS WHETHER USG
COULD ASSIST IN THIS MATTER BY TALKING TO ISRAELIS,
ASKING THEM TO DROP MATTER AND PUBLICITY. WE ARE
NOT SANGUINE ABOUT CHANCES OF HEADING OFF PUBLIC
SPECULATION, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ALERT
GOI TO KENYA'S EXTREME SENSITIVITY AND TO ASK THAT
EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO KEEP KENYAN ROLE IN THIS
AFFAIR QUIET.
MARSHALL

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NNN

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